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LOFTUS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT
for the Year 1959
of the Medical Officer of Health
P. BRODBIN,
L.R.C.P. & S.I., D.P.H.



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
LOFTUS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure of presenting the Annual Report of Loftus for the year 1959.

Dr. D. H. S. Griffith resigned from the appointment as your Medical Officer of Health during June, and until the end of the year the late Dr. H. Pattinson, Medical Officer of Health for Redcar, Saltburn and Marske, acted as your Medical Officer.

“The Wind of Change”

During the year 53 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified.

Almost all the serious epidemic diseases of the 1930's and 1940's have been defeated. It must be admitted, however, that constant vigilance is required on the part of the Public Health Department to prevent their reappearance. A recent outbreak of Diphtheria (not so far away) indicates the undiminished necessity for immunisation. The number of deaths from whooping cough has, within recent years, been greatly reduced. It still remains a “killer” in the very young.

Our recently established “Open Clinic System” at Loftus is intended to meet the convenience of the customer by making immunisation procedure as simple as buying a stamp at the local post office. Here anyone from six months to forty years may be immunised without formality and without delay. Our present “combined” Diphtheria-Whooping Cough vaccine affords the opportunity of protection against these two serious illnesses with a minimum number of injections. Our very competent Health Visitor (to whom I am most grateful) will keep reminding parents of immunisation dates until the final injection has been completed.

The Expectant Mother

The expectant mother should take the earliest opportunity to obtain the protection against Poliomyelitis for her own sake and for the sake of her child:

- (a) Expectant mothers are particularly vulnerable to Poliomyelitis.
- (b) The antibodies formed in the mother (as a result of vaccination) are transferred to her child.

Cancer

Cancer figured prominently as a major cause of deaths in Loftus during 1959. This is in line with the rest of the country. Many cancer deaths could indeed be prevented by the early use of existing technical knowledge. In certain industries routine examinations are made to exclude occupational cancers but no routine examinations are readily available to that section of the general public who are at risk to certain common cancers. We have regular examinations in Infant Welfare Clinics, Schools, Colleges and the fighting services—why do we stop these examinations then? Would the cost of the regular check-up be compensated by the consequently decreased cost for curative medicine?

Public education, designed to make people aware that certain forms of cancer can be cured by early treatment, is proving very satisfactory in areas where such public education schemes are in operation.

In conclusion may I say, "Many thanks" to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their kindness to me since I came here. I wish to record my appreciation of the help and advice I received from Mr. T. C. Ellison, Clerk of the Council; Mr. W. C. Ranson, Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector, and also Mr. W. Murray, Additional Public Health Inspector. I also wish to thank the staff at the District Health Office, Guisborough, for their enthusiastic work. Finally I wish to thank the Voluntary Workers for their help and I hope their grand spirit will long continue.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

P. BRODBIN,

September, 1960.

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE 1

Public Health Officers

Whole Time Officers	Guisborough Urban District	Skelton & Brotton Urban District	Loftus Urban District
Medical Officer of Health who is also Asst. County Medical Officer No. 4 Area N.R.C.C. and School Medical Officer, N.R.C.C.		Dr. D. H. S. Griffith (Resigned 20.6.59.)	
Public Health Inspectors	*Mr. A. T. Pallister	Mr. J. H. Rhodes	*Mr. W. C. Ranson
Additional Public Health Inspector	Mr. E. Ward		Mr. W. Murray

*Also Surveyor of the district concerned

County Public Health Staff attached to the Loftus Area.

Miss R. F. Cracknell	Health Visitor School Nurse
Miss H. J. Lindsley	District Nurse Midwife
Miss E. Pressick	District Nurse Midwife
Mrs. J. B. Robinson	District Nurse Midwife
Miss D. G. Pybus	District Nurse
Mr. R. K. Nuttall	Senior Clerk
Miss P. Knaggs	Clerk Typist.

SECTION 1.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Population

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the district in the mid-year 1959 is 7,650, as compared with one of 7,620 for the mid-year 1958.

General Statistics

I am indebted to the Financial Officer of the Council for the following figures:—

1. Area of the District in acres	....	....	9,974
2. No. of inhabited houses according to the rate books			2,664
3. Rateable Value	....	....	£86,530
4. Sum represented by a penny rate		....	£349

The District consists of the town of Loftus, the industrial communities of Skinninggrove and of part of Carlin How and the hamlets of Liverton, Scaling, Easington, Street Houses and Cowbar. The principal industries today are the iron and steel works and agriculture.

TABLE 2 — Vital Statistics

CAUSES OF DEATH

			MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	....	....	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	....	....	—	—
Syphilitic disease	....	....	—	—
Diphtheria	....	....	—	—
Whooping Cough	....	....	—	—
Meningo-coccal infection	....	....	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	....	....	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	....	....	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	....	....	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Lung, Bronchus	....	....	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	....	....	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus	....	....	—	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	....	....	4	2
Leukaemia	....	....	—	—
Diabetes	....	....	—	3
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	....	....	7	7
Coronary Disease, Angina	....	....	12	4
Hypertension with Heart Disease	....	....	1	—
Other Heart Diseases	....	....	7	5
Other Circulatory Diseases	....	....	1	2
Influenza	....	....	—	1
Pneumonia	....	....	1	2
Bronchitis	....	....	—	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	....	....	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	....	....	1	—
Gastro-enteritis and diarrhoea	....	....	1	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	....	....	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	....	....	2	—
Pregnancy, child-birth, abortion	....	....	—	—
Congenital malformations	....	....	1	—
Other defined or ill-defined diseases	....	....	3	3
Motor vehicle accidents	....	....	1	1
All other accidents	....	....	1	—
Suicide	....	....	1	—
Homicide and operations of war	....	....	—	—
ALL CAUSES	....	....	47	35

Deaths

The deaths are classified under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death. 82 deaths of residents gave a death rate of 10.7 per thousand of population, corrected to 12.3 per thousand as compared with 11.6 per thousand for England and Wales.

TABLE 3
Vital Statistics

			MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Live Births	67	73	140
Legitimate	59	70	129
Illegitimate	8	3	11
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Still Births	1	2	3
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

				MALE	FEMALE
Total	....	....	....	2	3
Legitimate	....	....	....	2	3
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	—

Births

The number of births registered in the district during the year was 140, giving a birth rate of 18.3 per thousand of the population compared to 16.5 for England and Wales.

Five infants under the age of one year died, giving an infantile mortality rate of 35.7 per thousand live births compared with one of 22.2 for England and Wales. Three of the infants who died were under four weeks of age.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES 1959
(other than Tuberculosis)

[illegible]

TABLE 5**Tuberculosis**

No new cases of respiratory tuberculosis and none of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year. There were no deaths from this disease.

TABLE 6**Immunisation and Vaccination****Immunisation against Diphtheria**

	UNDER 1	1 TO 4	5 TO 14	TOTAL
Completed	60	18	11	89
Reinforcing	—	3	33	36

Immunisation against Whooping Cough

	UNDER 1	1 TO 4	5 TO 14	TOTAL
Completed	72	6	—	78

Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria and Whooping Cough)

	UNDER 1	1 TO 4	5 TO 14	TOTAL
	7	4	—	11

Vaccination (Smallpox)

PRIMARY	RE-VACCINATION
39	6

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

PRIMARY	REINFORCING
626	590

The General Provision of Health Services in the District**1. Laboratory Facilities**

This work is now done at the Public Health Laboratory, Middlesbrough, only the biological test for tuberculous milk being carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Northallerton.

2. National Health Service Act, 1946

With certain exceptions the Guisborough Area Health Sub-Committee of the Health Committee of the County Council exercises the functions of the Local Health Authority in supervising the day to day administration of the services provided under this Act. The Committee met every two months at Guisborough. It is composed of members of the County Council, of the three District Councils of Guisborough, Skelton and Brotton, and Loftus, and of certain co-opted members. Among the services administered are the following:—

Domestic Help Service.	Home Nursing.
Prevention of illness: Care and After Care.	Health Visiting.
Ambulance Service.	Midwifery.
Vaccination and Immunization.	Care of Mothers and Young Children.

3. Voluntary Care Committee

I would like to record the work done by this Body for the welfare of persons suffering from tuberculosis and other illnesses. Whereas in connection with the welfare of the tuberculous the Committee has certain funds allocated to it, for the welfare of other sufferers it depends entirely on voluntary contributions. Enquiries and requests for assistance may be made to the Honorary Secretary, District Health Office, Park Lane, Guisborough (Telephone: Guisborough 321).

4. National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951 — Section 47.

There was no procedure taken under these Acts during 1959.

SECTION II

Water Supplies

During the year, fifty samples of water were taken from the various supplies in the area and submitted for bacteriological examination. The following table shews the results of these examinations.

TABLE 7

AREA OF SUPPLY			CLASSIFICATION										
Zetland Estates — South Loftus	....	....	4	1	2	2	1	3	4	1	1	4	
Wykeham Estates — Liverton Village	....	....	4	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	
Wykeham Estates — Liverton Mines	....	....	4	2	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	
Tees Valley Water Board — Liverton Mines	....		1	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	
Zetland Estates — Streethouses	....	....	4	1	4	3	2	4	4	3	1	4	
Tees Valley Water Board — Easington	....	....	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	
Tees Valley Water Board — Loftus	....	....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	
Tees Valley Water Board — Skinningrove	....		—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	

TOTAL WATER SAMPLES 50.

Water Supplies—continued

It is evident from these figures that where there is not a main supply the water is generally of an undesirable quality.

Food Premises

There are within the district the undermentioned food premises:—

Butchers	6
Fishmongers	1
Grocers	19
Greengrocers	5
Bakers and Confectioners	2
Sweets and General Goods	27
Canteens, etc.	5
Licensed Premises	17

In the case where a shop deals in more than one type of goods cognisance has been taken of the main foodstuffs dealt with.

Registered Food Premises

Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, are as under:

Preparation and sale of sausages, brawn, etc.	6
Sale of Ice-Cream	30

Fifty-three visits of inspection of registered food premises were made during the year. Sausage making is the main work carried on in regard to meat products. In the case of ice-cream, all the premises registered are concerned in the sale of pre-packed ice-cream only.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1956

Sixty-eight visits were made to food premises in connection with these regulations and improvements continue to be made.

Ice-cream

No ice-cream is manufactured in the district.

Licensed Premises

Eighteen inspections were made of licensed premises in the district.

Fish Frying

There are ten fish frying premises in the district. These were inspected on twenty-one occasions.

Bakehouses

There are two bakehouses in use in the district. Eight inspections of these were carried out.

Food Poisoning

No outbreak of food poisoning was notified to me during the year.

Section 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

No action was necessary under the above mentioned Regulations during the year.

Meat Inspection

There are five private slaughterhouses licensed by the Council of which four are used for regular slaughtering by local butchers. Five hundred and twenty visits were made to slaughterhouses for meat inspections and 1806 lbs. of meat and offal were condemned as being diseased or otherwise unfit for human consumption. All the meat was surrendered voluntarily. All condemned meat is stained and disposed of either by incineration under supervision or dispatch to approved sources or, in the case of bony masses, by burial at the Council's tip.

These figures given in Table 9 shew details of the meat inspection work carried out.

The scheme for relief work in respect of meat inspection during holidays or illness has operated between the Public Health Inspectors of Skelton and Brotton, Saltburn and Marske, and Loftus Urban Districts and I am glad to report that this scheme has worked well.

TABLE 8

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle exclud- ing cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	633	—	—	1719	871	—
Number inspected	633	—	—	1719	871	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	2	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	34	—	—	1	7	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tubercu- losis and cysticerci	5.37%	—	—	0.17%	0.34%	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcases condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	—	19	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.47%	—	—	—	2.81%	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	1	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Total meat inspected was 673,238 lbs.

Housing Statistics

New houses erected in 1959

(a)	By private owners	....	....	....	3
(b)	By the Council	....	....	....	35

1. *Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year*

1.	(a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	....	....	107
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	....	....	175
2.	(a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	....	....	0
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	....	....	0
3.		Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	....	....	0
4.		Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	....	....	95

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices*

(1)	Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit or repaired in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	125
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year*

A. Proceedings under Sections 9 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1957

(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	....	....	....	0
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notices				
(a)	By Owners	....	....	....	0
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	....	....	....	0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	....	....	....	0
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices				
(a)	By Owners	....	....	....	0
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	....	....	....	0

Housing Statistics—continued

C.	Proceedings under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957		
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	....	0
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	....	0
D.	Proceedings under Section 16, 17, 18, 26 and 35, Housing Act, 1957		
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	....	0
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	....	0
4.	<i>Housing Act, 1936, Part 4, Overcrowding</i>		
	No accurate figures are available.		
5.	<i>Housing Act, 1949, and Housing Repairs and Rents Acts, 1954 and 1957</i>		
(1)	(a) Number of Improvement Grants made	....	7
	(b) Number of Improvement Grants refused	....	0
(2)	(a) Number of Certificates of Disrepair granted	....	0
	(b) Number of Certificates of Disrepair revoked	....	0

Sanitary Circumstances of the District

I give a table of the inspections for nuisances carried out during the year by the Public Health Inspectors.

TABLE 9
Nuisances

Total number of inspections made for nuisances only	280
Nuisances found	151
Nuisances in hand, end of previous year	3
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Total needing abatement	154
Abated during the year	144
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Outstanding at end of year	10
	<hr/>
Notices served, informal	151
Notices served, Statutory	0
Number of summonses or other legal proceedings	0
	<hr/>
Complied with	144
Complied with	0
	<hr/>

Table 9—*continued*

Regulated Buildings, Trades, Etc.

There are no common lodging houses, houses let in lodgings or knackers' yards.

Byclaws in force in the District

Building Byclaws, 21st August, 1953.

Closet Accommodation

There are 51 privies with fixed receptacles and 189 pail closets in the district. In addition there are 3,109 water closets. 12 pail closets and privies were reconstructed as W.C's. 38 water closets were constructed for new houses.

Refuse Collection

Public refuse collection is in operation throughout the district on a weekly basis with the exception of isolated dwellings. The refuse is disposed of by means of tipping. The improved tipping methods have been maintained. It is hoped that a new tipping site will soon be available.

Shops Act, 1950, Section 37 and 38.

Twenty-eight visits were paid under the above mentioned section. Unsatisfactory conditions were found in one instance and remedied.

Tents, Vans and Sheds

There are two sites: they were inspected on five occasions.

Drainage and Sewerage

There is no sewage disposal works in the district, the sewage being discharged into the sea. Development of the new housing site at Easington has led to a new sewer being laid as far as this site. This makes the possibility of providing a sewerage system to the whole of Easington Village a much more practical proposition.

Apart from this area, Liverton Village remains unsewered.

Water testing of new drainage work is carried out.

Air Pollution

Co-operation has continued to be shewn by the Management of the Skinninggrove Iron Company in connection with nuisances arising from fumes and grit emitted from the Works.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948

The following figures have been returned to the Director of Statistics, Ministry of Labour and National Service, regarding factories in the district.

TABLE 10

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	23	25	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	—	—	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	23	25	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Number of cases in which defects were found			
Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

